

ADVANCING CARE INFORMATION		
FAQ Number	Question	Answer
22533	If a practice has multiple office locations under the same Tax Identification Number (TIN), and one office is within a broadband availability area but the other office for the practice is not, would that practice still qualify for the hardship exception for	No, the office with broadband availability would not qualify for the hardship exception and, if a practice has an office site with sufficient internet access, the group must report for those clinicians for whom they have data.
22537	Can Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligible clinicians that have switched certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT) vendors apply for a hardship exception and have their advancing care information performance category weight reallocated to the quality performance category?	Yes, if a MIPS-eligible clinician switches CEHRT vendors during the performance period and is unable to report for the advancing care information performance category, the clinician may apply for an Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances hardship exception. For example, if a MIPS-eligible clinician switches CEHRT vendors in 2017 and is unable to submit measures for the advancing care information performance category for the 2017 performance period, the MIPS-eligible clinician can apply for an Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstance category hardship exception, before the submission deadline.
22529	Will CMS require the submission of supporting documentation along with the Quality Payment Program hardship exception application?	CMS does not require a Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligible clinician or group to submit documentation with the hardship exception application. CMS will review the application to record the category selected and use the identifying information for each clinician and group listed on the application. MIPS eligible clinicians and groups should retain documentation of their circumstances supporting their application for their own records in the event CMS requests data validation or audit.
22525	If I submit a Quality Payment Program hardship exception application, does that mean that I cannot report on the advancing Care Information performance category for 2017 performance period?	No. You may still report on the advancing care information performance category, however if you choose to report, your data will be scored and your hardship exception will be dismissed.